

Walnut Landing (A House)  
On the Nanticoke River  
Woodland (formerly Cannons' Ferry)  
Sussex County  
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-153

HABS  
DEL  
3-WOOD

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS

DEL

2-WOOD

## WALNUT LANDING (A HOUSE)

Location: On the Nanticoke River, Woodland (formerly Cannons' Ferry), Sussex County, Delaware

Present Owner: Mr. Richard Gundry

Brief Statement of Significance: Built about 1710, this is one of the oldest surviving brick houses in Sussex County. Its plan, characterized by a "great room" with a winding, closed stairway beside a large fireplace, is typical of Delaware in this period; but its use of brick is very unusual in southern Sussex County.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Walnut Landing, built about 1710, is one of the two really old brick houses in Sussex County. It is on the banks of the Nanticoke River and the bricks were brought by water from Maryland. There is too much sand in the soil of southern Sussex to make durable bricks ---- they would be fit only for nogging and would not stand exposure to the weather.

When the present occupants rescued Walnut Landing from complete destruction, the house was in the last stages of dilapidation. It had long been deserted. Weather-worn, looted and damaged by hoodlums, the only intact piece of movable woodwork was the door that closes the winding stair beside the fireplace. Everything else had either been broken to bits or carried off.

The whole frame wing was so ruinous that repair was out of the question. So much had to be replaced that it became virtually complete restoration. Fortunately, all the damaged parts could be replaced exactly as they had been, and every evidence of plan and structure was scrupulously preserved.

The brick part of the house is a one-story-and-attic structure with a gabled roof of steep pitch. On a line with the box cornice, four courses of bricks, with a very slight projection from the wall surface, are carried across the gable-end in the manner of a belt course. Above this, the gable-end is patterned with convergent lines of black headers, parallel with the slopes of the roof.

On the ground floor there is only one room, with a fireplace and a closed stair winding up beside it. Above is one room. Here, again, is the Resurrection Manor plan, discussed in connection with the house at White Meadow Farm. The "added" room, in the frame wing, is reached by a door at the other side of the fireplace from the stair. The woodwork is all of very simple pattern and obviously early.

Prepared by Harold Donaldson Eberlein  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
June 1960